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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER OCI #1010/72
21 Nov. 1972East European Reaction to Brandt's Reelection

East European commentary varied only slightly in tone in its positive assessment of the election. The West German population was praised by all for having chosen to continue the policy of peace and cooperation in Europe.

Polish Prime Minister Jaroszewicz sent congratulatory messages to both Brandt and Scheel saying that this success will have a favorable influence on the further course of the process of normalization of Bonn-Warsaw relations. Hungarian politburo member Kallai received the results with "satisfaction" adding that the Hungarians are "confident" that the Brandt government will continue taking concrete steps toward further consolidation of European security and cooperation. Specifically he indicated that this included movement toward formalization of relations with Czechoslovakia, after which Hungary could presumably take this step (see Intelligencer 20 November for indication that Hungarians may not be willing to wait for Prague).

Prague balanced its praise for Brandt with strong condemnation of the last minute tactics of the CDU. It also contained the now-standard line that the time has come for the normalizing of relations between Prague and Bonn but that this must be on the basis of recognizing the Munich Treaty as null and void from its inception.

The Belgrade daily Politika commented that the Federal republic has stepped forward into a new political arena of vital importance to German development, to the German role and place in the era of European pacification and to consolidation. Sofia was long, but unexceptional, on commentary and Bucharest and Tirana have yet to be heard from.

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Yugoslav Defense Minister Shows Impatience

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Defense Secretary Nikola Ljubcic spoke on 15 November to the standing conference of the League of Communists in the Yugoslav Army (JNA) and took a line considerably harder regarding Belgrade's internal and foreign relations than

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that taken recently by Tito and Dolanc. He pointed to the continuing outside threat to Yugoslavia and the need to maintain a high degree of fighting readiness in the army.

Ljubicic also referred to the Tito letter saying that the JNA would be "responsible" though he claimed the army does not face the same "problems" as other organizations. He later mentioned "anarcho-liberal, nationalist and openly hostile elements" in this regard. He sharply condemned those party bodies that shut themselves behind closed doors and opposed every effort to talk about democratic centralism-- a reference to the Serbian party under Nikezic.

Ljubicic's strong statement may indicate that the military is not satisfied with the extent of the purges to date and may be pushing for further personnel changes.

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Albania Rejects Participation in CSCE

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To the surprise of no one, Tirana has officially refused to participate in the first round of preparatory talks on European security that are to begin tomorrow in Helsinki. According to a Reuter's dispatch, the Albanian rebuff was tied to the thesis that any conference "which is organized and manipulated by the United States and the Soviet Union is no guarantee for security," --standard Albanian press boiler-plate. The note also added that the East-West treaties had not reduced the danger in Europe and accused the two powers of implementing an aggressive policy in Europe.

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